

REMARKS

Claims 2-9 are pending. Claims 2-8 are under examination. Withdrawn claim 9 is being maintained of record.

DOUBLE PATENTING

Claims 2-8 have been provisionally rejected on grounds of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-44 and 46-66 of copending Application No. 11/535,779 (the '779 application). Claims 15-44 and 46-66 have been canceled from the '779 application. Upon an indication of otherwise allowable subject matter applicants will consider filing a terminal disclaimer over the '779 application.

Claims 2-8 have been provisionally rejected on grounds of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-66 of copending Application No. 11/841,508 (the '508 application). The rejection is respectfully traversed. The '508 application was filed after the subject application. Accordingly, upon an indication of otherwise allowable subject matter this rejection should be withdrawn and the subject application should be allowed to issue as a patent without a terminal disclaimer over the '508 application. MPEP §804(I)(B)(1), Rev. 6, Sept. 2007, page 800-17, right column.

INVENTION IS ENABLED

Claims 2-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The claims are directed to a method of treating certain conditions, including diabetes, by administering an agent selected from certain compounds and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts. According to the rejection, the specification is allegedly deficient both

with respect to the description of the compounds recited in the claims and with respect to treatment of the genus diabetes.

With respect to the recited compounds, relying on Fujikawa v. Wattanasin, 93 F.3d 1559, 1571, 39 USPQ2d 1895, 1905 (Fed. Cir. 1996) and In re Ruschig, 379 F.2d 990, 995, 154 USPQ 118, 123 (CCPA 1967) the rejection, states that “a laundry list disclosure of every possible moiety does not constitute a written description of every species in a genus” (March 21, 2008 Office Action, page 4). The rejection acknowledges that “an applicant may . . . show that an invention is complete by disclosure of sufficiently detailed, relevant identifying characteristics which provide evidence that applicant was in possession of the claimed invention, i.e. complete or partial structure. . . .” (March 21, 2008 Office Action, page 5). The original disclosure provides the complete chemical name for each compound recited in the claims. Unlike Fujikawa or Ruschig, there is no need to pick and choose from a laundry list of disclosed moieties in order to arrive at claimed compound species. The chemical names in the original disclosure identify the chemical structure of such compounds, and thus more than satisfy the written description requirement of Section 112, first paragraph.

With respect to treating diabetes the rejection states, “The mere fact that Applicant may have discovered that type 1 diabetes and type 2 diabetes were effectively treated with the said active agents is not sufficient to claim the entire genus of **diabetes**, which includes gestational diabetes.” (March 21, 2008 Office Action, page 5) (emphasis in original).

A reference cited in the September 10, 2007 Office Action identifies the “three major types of diabetes . . . : Type 1 diabetes . . . Type 2 diabetes . . . [and] Gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM). (www.healthinsite.gov.au/topic/Types_of_Diabetes (downloaded 8/31/07)). The same reference supports a connection between Type 2 diabetes and gestational diabetes. The reference states, “Risk factors for GDM [gestational diabetes mellitus] include a family history of diabetes, . . . obesity and being a member of a community or ethnic group with a high risk of developing type 2 diabetes.”

www.healthinsite.gov.au/topic/Types_of_Diabetes (downloaded 8/31/07). As seen from the reference, obesity is a risk factor for Type 2 diabetes and for gestational diabetes. Moreover, a family history of diabetes or being a member of an ethnic group with a high risk of developing type 2 diabetes is also a risk factor for developing gestational diabetes.

The Office acknowledges that applicants were in possession of a method of treating type 1 diabetes and type 2 diabetes. In view of the established relationship between type 2 diabetes and gestational diabetes, the original disclosure is sufficient to establish that applicants were in possession, at least, of a method of treating all three major types of diabetes.

Having established that applicants were in possession of a treatment for the three major types of diabetes, it is straightforward to conclude that applicants were in possession of a treatment for diabetes generally. The Office Action explains the standard for written description of a genus as follows:

The written description requirement for a claimed genus may be satisfied through sufficient description of a representative number of species

A “representative number of species” means that the species which are adequately described are representative of the entire genus. Thus, when there is substantial variation within the genus, one must describe a sufficient variety of species to reflect the variation within the genus. The disclosure of only one species encompassed within a genus adequately describes a claim directed to that genus only if the disclosure “indicates that the patentee has invented species sufficient to constitute the gen[us].”

(March 21, 2008 Office Action, pages 5-6). In this case applicant has claimed a genus, diabetes. The genus has three major types and applicant has explicitly described two of them, type 1 diabetes and type 2 diabetes. The third type, gestational diabetes, has a known connection to one of the explicitly described types. The Office has failed to establish that there is substantial variation within the genus. And in any event the Office

has failed to establish that the described types are not representative of the genus as a whole. Accordingly, the written description is sufficient to show that applicants were in possession of a method of treating the genus diabetes by administering the biologically active agents recited in the claims.

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that the written description rejection has been overcome.

CONCLUSION

In view of the preceding remarks, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections.

It is believed that no fee is required in connection with the filing of this Communication. If any fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the amount of such fee to Deposit Account No. 50-1677.

Respectfully submitted,

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